UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1996/2
17 January 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Organizational session for 1996
25 January and 6-9 February 1996
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of the Bureau.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Basic programme of work of the Council.

4. Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

5. Increase in the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

6. Transformation of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes into the Executive Board of the World Food Programme.

7. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields.

8. Elections, nominations and confirmations.

Annotations

Item 1. Election of the Bureau

1. Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that each year at the commencement of its first meeting, the Council shall elect a President and four Vice-Presidents from among the representatives of its members. The membership of the Council in 1996 is given in the annex below. According to the

96-00908 (E) 180196 220196

/...

rotation of the office of President among the regional groups, the President for 1996 should be the representative of a member of the African States group. The four Vice-Presidents of the Council shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution from the other four regional groups.

2. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall constitute the Bureau. The Council, upon the recommendation of the President, shall decide on the special responsibilities of each Vice-President.

3. Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77, a meeting of the Council will be held on 25 January 1996 for the election of the Bureau.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

4. Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that, at the beginning of each session, after the selection of the Bureau when required under rule 18, the Council shall adopt the agenda for the session.

5. The attention of the Council is drawn to annex II of General Assembly resolution 48/162, in particular section D, which sets out the agenda for the substantive session of the Council. The present provisional agenda has been prepared in conformity with the indications therein and with other relevant legislative decisions.

World Decade for Cultural Development

6. In a letter dated 9 August 1995 addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (E/1996/6), the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proposed that the next biennial progress report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO on the implementation of the goals and objectives of the World Decade for Cultural Development be prepared for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997, instead of at the fifty-first session of the Assembly, as recommended by the Assembly in its resolution 49/105. The Council may wish to consider this proposal at its organizational session for 1996.

Documentation

Letter dated 9 August 1995 from the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the Secretary-General (E/1996/6)

Item 3. Basic programme of work of the Council

7. In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Council shall draw up, at its organizational session, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, its basic programme of work.

8. The Council will have before it the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1996 and 1997 prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly.

9. Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, the President, prior to the organizational session, and with the cooperation of the other members of the Bureau, will arrange for consultations with members of the Council on the draft programme of work and provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General and make proposals thereon for consideration by the Council.

Themes for the working-level meetings of the operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment of the substantive session of 1996 of the Council

10. In its resolution 1995/50 of 28 July 1995, the Council decided that in 1996 the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment should focus on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development, at all levels, including the field level. It also decided on the themes for the working-level meetings of that segment and further decided to review those themes at its organizational session for 1996, in the light of the discussion on the triennial policy review at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly. In its resolution 50/120 of 20 December 1995, entitled "Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system", the Assembly took note of Council resolution 1995/50.

Coordination segment of the substantive session of 1996 of the Council

11. In its decision 1995/321 of 12 December 1995, the Council decided that the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1996 should be devoted to consideration of the following theme: Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system for the eradication of poverty, and that consideration of the theme should focus on the following three areas: (a) coordination of United Nations support for and availability of resources to the United Nations system for facilitating national poverty eradication plans and programmes as well as the provision of basic social services, particularly at the field level; (b) coordination of United Nations efforts to ensure that all its activities for poverty eradication take fully into account the gender perspective; and (c) ways of monitoring the performance of the United Nations in the field of poverty eradication, in the context of the harmonization of the multi-year programmes of work of the functional commissions of the Council, in accordance with the thirteenth paragraph of agreed conclusions 1995/1 (see A/50/3, chap. III, para. 22). It also decided to decide at its organizational session for 1996 on the allocation of a number of meetings, within the general segment of its substantive session of 1996 to determine how, to ensure harmonization and coordination of the agendas and multi-year programmes of work of its functional commissions.

12. Furthermore, in a note by the Secretary-General (E/1995/129), submitted to the Council at its resumed substantive session of 1995, it was suggested that "gender equality, equity and empowerment of women" could be selected as the

common theme for the 1996 coordination segment of the Council. It is therefore suggested that this theme could be selected by the Council as the second theme of its 1996 coordination segment.

Documentation

Proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1996 and 1997 (E/1996/1 and Add.1)

Proposals by the Bureau of the Council on the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1996 and 1997

Item 4. Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

13. In its resolution 1995/2 of 3 July 1995, the Council endorsed the arrangements outlined in section VI (Governance and management) of the report of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (see document E/1995/71) and requested the Executive Director of the Programme to report on the status of implementation of the programme, through the Programme Coordination Board, to the Council early in 1996. In paragraph 3 of the annex to that resolution, it had also been recommended that the Council should review the Programme at its organizational session for 1996.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Item 5. Increase in the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

14. The Council will have before it a letter dated 23 November 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland to the Secretary-General (E/1996/5) tendering the formal application of the Government of Ireland for admission to the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Council will be called upon to recommend to the General Assembly that it increase the membership of the Executive Committee from 50 to 51 members.

Documentation

Letter dated 23 November 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland to the Secretary-General (E/1996/5)

Item 6. Transformation of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes into the Executive Board of the World Food Programme

15. In its resolution 50/8 of 1 November 1995, the General Assembly decided that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme (WFP) should be reconstituted as the Executive Board of WFP, and also

decided to approve the revised General Regulations of WFP. The Council will have for its consideration a note by the Secretary-General (E/1995/131) to which is annexed a letter dated 18 December 1995 addressed to him from the Executive Director of WFP. The Council will also have before it a note by the Secretary-General on the transformation of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes into the Executive Board of WFP (E/1995/131/Add.1), containing in its annex I the report of the Formal Working Group of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes on resource options and long-term financing of WFP, and in its annex II the section of the report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its fortieth session in which the report of the Formal Working Group was discussed.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the transformation of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes into the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (E/1995/131 and Add.1)

Item 7. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

16. At its second regular session of 1982, the Council decided to identify, at its annual organizational session, a subject related to interregional cooperation, of common interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional cooperation. The Council will have to decide on the subject to be selected so that a section on interregional cooperation dealing with the topic selected can be included in the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.

Item 8. Elections, nominations and confirmations

Postponed elections

17. The Council is called upon to hold elections and nominations, postponed from previous sessions, to the following bodies:

Commission on Human Settlements

From African States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999;

From Asian States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999.

Statistical Commission

From Latin American and Caribbean States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

From Western European and other States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election.

Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development

From African States: three members for a term beginning on the date of election.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

From African States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1997;

From Latin American and Caribbean States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1997 and one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1996.

Executive Board of the World Food Programme (E/1996/8)

From list A 1/ (African States): two members for a term beginning on the date of election;

From list C 1/ (Latin American and Caribbean States): one member for a term beginning on the date of election.

Commission on Population and Development (E/1996/9)

From African States: five members;

From African States: six members;

From Eastern European States: two members;

From Latin American and Caribbean States: four members;

From Western European and other States: three members.

Postponed nominations

World Food Council

18. The nomination of nine members was postponed. The Council will therefore be called upon to nominate nine members for election by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, as follows:

From Latin American and Caribbean States: two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1998;

1/ Lists A and C are reproduced in document E/1995/L.11, annex II.

From Western European and other States: three members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1998, two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1997 and one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1996;

From Eastern European States: one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1996.

Confirmations

19. The Secretary-General will submit for confirmation by the Council the names of persons nominated to serve as representatives on the functional commissions of the Council since the close of the organizational session for 1995.

Annex

MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL FOR 1996

	Term expires on 31 December
Argentina	1998
Australia	1997
Bangladesh	1998
Belarus	1997
Brazil	1997
Bulgaria	1996
Canada	1998
Central African Republic	1998
Chile	1996
China	1998
Colombia	1997
Congo	1997
Costa Rica	1996
Côte d'Ivoire	1997
Czech Republic	1998
Egypt	1996
Finland	1998
France	1996
Gabon	1998
Germany	1996
Ghana	1996
Greece	1996
Guyana	1998
India	1997
Indonesia	1996
Ireland	1996
Jamaica	1997
Japan	1996
Jordan	1998
Lebanon	1998
Luxembourg	1997
Malaysia	1997
Netherlands	1997
Nicaragua	1998
Pakistan	1996
Paraguay	1996
Philippines	1997
Poland	1997
Portugal	1996
Romania	1998
Russian Federation	1998
Senegal	1996
South Africa	1997
Sudan	1997

	Term expires on 31 December
Sweden	1998
Thailand	1997
Togo	1998
Tunisia	1998
Uganda	1997
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1998
United Republic of Tanzania	1996
United States of America	1997
Venezuela	1996
Zimbabwe	1996